

Dear Members and Honorable Chairs of the Human Services of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Misael Silvas, I am a member of the organization Communities Without Borders, in Norwalk.

I am in favor of SB 284: A LAW TO INCREASE THE AGE FROM 8 TO 18 YEARS FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN REGARDLESS OF THEIR IMMIGRATION STATUS.

I'm going to read Angela's testimony, these are her words.

In May, I arrived at an emergency room with severe pain and bleeding, which led to a stent placement and a four-day hospital stay. While I was hospitalized, I filled out an application for the hospital, a state program that helps pay for acute care inpatient and outpatient services. The stent had to be removed after two weeks, but the application for the Charity Care program had been lost. They told me that I would have to reapply or pay a high bill out of pocket.

My inability to pay for services and difficulties reapplying for the payment program meant that I was unable to obtain timely medical care. My appointments were repeatedly rescheduled and cancelled. I continued to have severe pain and bleeding, and the stent graft became infected.

"At that time, I was in a very fragile state, I was very frustrated, scared, and I didn't know what was going to happen to me and my health."

Then I was hospitalized for the second time. "This shows that healthcare is not always aligned with providing quality care to those in need.

I support SB 284 and I hope that by listening to our stories, you feel in your heart the harsh reality in which we live as undocumented immigrants. We need you to make the right decision today in favor of our families.

Thank you for hearing our voices.

Angela.